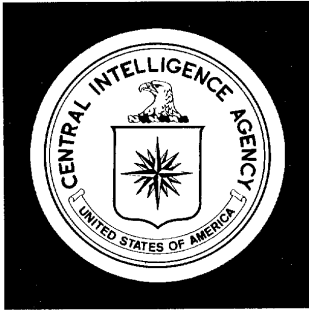


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CIA/ SAVA / WIND 721216



## WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

*Week Ending December 16, 1972*

**NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.**

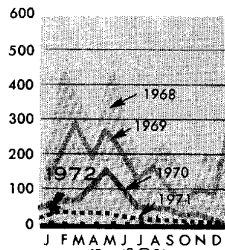
*For the President Only*

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# SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1972

Weekly average for each month

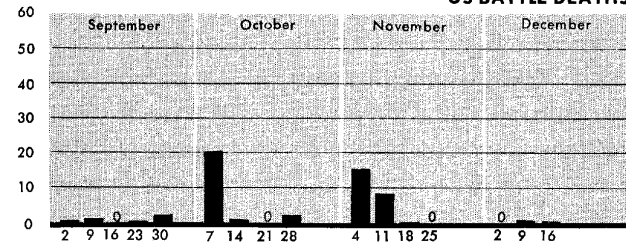


SEPTEMBER — DECEMBER 1972

Weekly data as reported

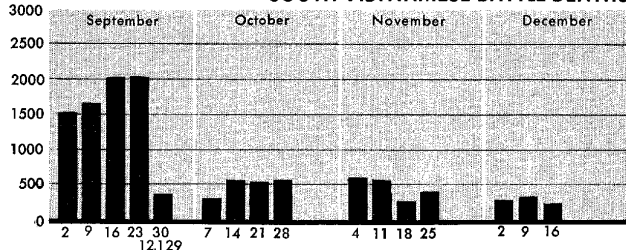
## US BATTLE DEATHS

remained at one -- the same figure as last week.



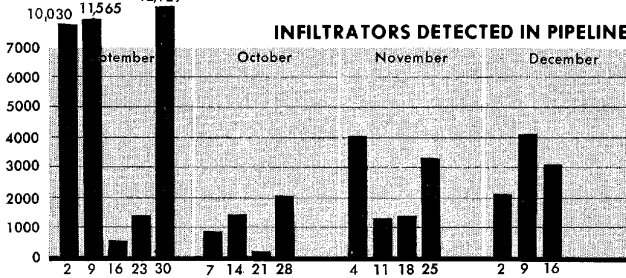
## SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

totalled 259 for the week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.



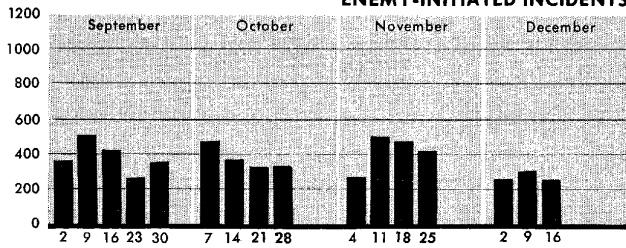
## INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

include five regular and six special purpose groups totaling 3,156 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 now stands at some 24,600 - 26,100.



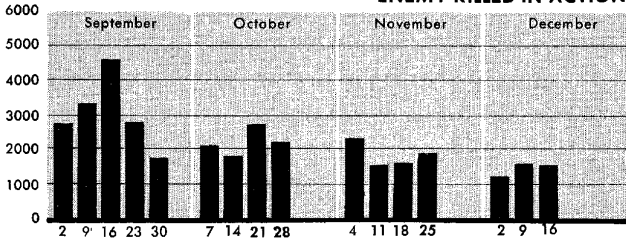
## ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

decreased to 287 from the 316 of last week.



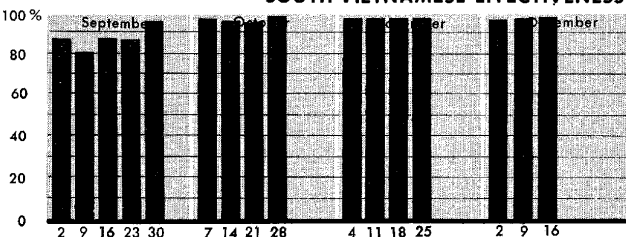
## ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

declined from last week's 1,735 to 1,628.



## SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces stood at 100% -- the same level as the previous week.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity in South Vietnam remained at comparatively low levels during the past week, although heavy artillery attacks continued against South Vietnamese Marine and Airborne offensive operations in Quang Tri Province. Elsewhere in the country as well, most of the ground action resulted from friendly initiatives as enemy forces have attempted to avoid contact and have confined their efforts to low-cost harassment activity. Such high visibility-low risk tactics as the rocket attacks on Bien Hoa Air Base on 15 and 16 December serve to emphasize the enemy's presence while enabling him to minimize the exposure of his forces. Recent and as yet unconfirmed reports from the COSVN area indicate that before a cease-fire the North Vietnamese intend to disperse many of their troops in small groups among local Viet Cong units. Such dispersal would significantly strengthen the badly depleted ranks of the Viet Cong in the post cease-fire period. Unless these troops received additional reinforcements and supplies from the North, however, South Vietnamese military forces would be capable of containing them.

In northern Laos, harassing rocket fire fell on the airfield serving Luang Prabang and on a nearby town in a repetition of last month's 122mm rocket attack. On the Plaine des Jarres front, intercepted communications continue to reveal a buildup of enemy forces around the irregular enclave at Bouam Long, north of the Plaine, where a major attack appears imminent. In the south, an enemy counterattack against Saravane is underway, but friendly forces have thrown back the initial attacks. On the Bolovens Plateau, over 1,000 friendly reinforcements have been successfully lifted into Paksong. The reinforcements included an additional mobile group, which has begun a sweep to the northeast of the town.

In Cambodia, the Communists continue to apply pressure on government positions around Kompong Thom City, but the intensity of the fighting in this area is less than it was last week. Communist forces are now probing and conducting light artillery attacks against positions north and south of the isolated provincial capital, possibly in preparation for a larger assault. At Phnom Penh, Communist sappers sank a docked POL barge in the city's harbor on 15 December, resulting in the loss of some 100,000 gallons of gasoline. Intercepted enemy messages continue to indicate the movement of troops toward Phnom Penh. Pochentong Airfield and the ammunition depot at Kantauk are probable targets in the area and may be subjected to enemy attacks by fire and/or ground probes at any time.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

During the week, 3,156 NVA infiltrators were detected in the infiltration pipeline. This raises the estimate of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 to some 24,600 - 26,100.

North Vietnamese logistics activity continued at an accelerated pace during the week. Over 2,100 tons of materiel were shipped southward through the Vinh logistical area of operations. Ordnance items -- all destined for northern South Vietnam -- comprised over half of this total. So far in December, almost 5,000 tons of supplies have been detected transiting southern North Vietnam headed for South Vietnam.

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